

KBSNA sessions to be held at AAR/SBL Annual Meeting in Orlando, Nov. 20-21

Again this November there will be two sessions sponsored by the Karl Barth Society in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature in Orlando. (Unfortunately, the Barth Society sessions are not listed in this year's AAR/SBL program book, leading to some confusion as to whether there would be a KBS program this year.)

The first session will be on Friday afternoon, November 20, with a second session on Saturday morning, November 21.

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE KARL BARTH SOCIETY

All who are interested are invited to join the Karl Barth Society of North America.

To become a member of the Barth Society, send your name, address, and annual dues of **\$15.00** (\$10.00 for students) to:

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Dept. of Philosophy and Religion
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Omaha, NE 68182-0265

Checks should be made payable to "Karl Barth Society." *Members whose dues were last paid prior to November of last year are urged to send in their annual renewal.*

The Friday afternoon session will be held in the Walt Disney World Dolphin, in Room D-Europe 10, from 3:45 to 6:15 p.m. The program will begin with a presentation on "**Barth's 'Supplementary Apologetic'**" by **Walter Lowe** (Candler School of Theology, Emory University).

The rest of the Friday session will feature a paper by **George Hunsinger** (Center for Barth Studies, Princeton Theological Seminary). His topic will be: "**Barth's Chalcedonian Christology.**"

On Saturday morning, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., there will be a discussion with **Robert Jenson** (Center of Theological Inquiry) of his new *Systematic Theology, Volume I, The Triune God* (Oxford University Press). In addition to the author, other members of the panel will be **Paul Molnar** (St. John's University, New York) and **Michael Root** (Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio). The Saturday morning session will be in the the Walt Disney World Dolphin, in Room D-Northern A-4.

American scholar wins German Barth Prize

Bruce L. McCormack of Princeton Seminary has been chosen by the Evangelical Church of the Union (EKU) to receive the Karl Barth Prize. The award will be presented at a ceremony in Berlin on December 16. The prize of 20,000 DM is awarded every other year. It was established in 1986 to honor outstanding works in the tradition of the Theological Declaration of Barmen (which was largely written by Karl Barth).

The jury, composed of theologians Eberhard Jüngel and Wolf Krötke together with Berlin Bishop Wolfgang Huber, chose McCormack for the honor because of "his outstanding contributions to research in the theology of

Karl Barth, research which has sought to address North American questions while simultaneously preserving the theological and philosophical inheritance of Europe." McCormack's book, *Karl Barth's Critically Realistic Dialectical Theology*, was described as "a striking example of intellectual biography" which has established "new standards not only for American but also for European Barth research."

Karl Barth Archiv publication enclosed

Included in this mailing is the recent newsletter of the Karl Barth Archiv in Basel.

Barth Conference held at Luther Seminary August 10-12

"The Vitality of the Reformation Today—Lutheran and Reformed Reflections in Conversation with Karl Barth" was the theme of a conference held August 10-12 on the campus of Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, under the joint sponsorship of the Karl Barth Society of North America and a number of other groups.

Growing out of the recent Formula of Agreement between Lutheran and Reformed denominations in the United States, the conference featured presentations by eight theologians representing the Lutheran and Reformed traditions.

Conference Director Wayne Stumme arranged the conference in response to the action of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Reformed Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and the United Church of Christ to enter into "covenant communion" with one another.

In recent years Stumme, now retired from directing the ELCA Institute for Mission in the U.S.A., has brought together Lutheran and Barthian theologians in a series of conferences to explore the significance of Barth's theology for the ministry of the church.

KBSNA Executive Meets August 1 in St. Paul

A meeting of the Executive of the Karl Barth Society of North America was held on August 1 at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Present were Ronald Goetz (President), David Demson (General Secretary), George Hunsinger, James Nelson, Russell Palmer, and Wayne Stumme.

It was agreed that the KBSNA should concentrate its efforts on the establishment and encouragement of reading groups of (primarily) pastors. The purpose of these groups would be the reading together of Barth's works.

It was suggested that the KBSNA might undertake the development of study guides and establish a speaker/group teacher roster in support of these groups. It might also compile a bibliography of readable secondary sources by such as Bromiley, Brown, Come, Molnar, and Zachman.

Ron Goetz agreed to direct this new effort and George Hunsinger indicated that he might be able to find financial support for the effort in the CBS budget.

It was recommended that Ron Goetz communicate with Fred Trost and John Olmstead and with other members of church renewal groups.

It was recommended that once reading groups are established, their members might be asked to canvass their churches for the support of the ongoing publication of Barth's unpublished work.

It was agreed that a description of the relation between the KBSNA and the CBS be developed at the next meeting of the Executive.

It was agreed that Joe Mangina, Reinhard Huetter, Lois Malcolm, and Paul Molnar be nominated to serve as Directors of the KBSNA. Others on the proposed slate include S. Crocco, E. Charry, D. Dayton, D. Demson, C. Dickinson, R. Goetz, G. Hunsinger, R. Palmer, H. Reid, S. Selinger, and W. Stumme.

It was agreed that the KBSNA support in whatever ways it is able the Barth-Bonhoeffer conference in 2000 which Wayne Stumme has undertaken to organize.

Appreciation was expressed to the editor for the work of the KBS Newsletter.

The next meeting of the Executive is to be held during the CBS conference set for June 15-17, 1999 in Princeton.

CORRESPONDENCE

The descent into hell in Barth and Balthasar

David Lauber, doctoral candidate at Princeton Seminary, writes that he is working on a dissertation on Karl Barth and Hans Urs von Balthasar on the function of the "descent into hell" in the doctrine of the atonement. He is also serving as assistant to George Hunsinger in the Center for Barth Studies.

Barth vs. anti-Semitism and the Holocaust

Many thanks for the recent (spring) newsletter. I read with interest the note about David Moseley's Ph.D. dissertation-in-progress, and thought I would like to pass on to you news about my own work. I was recently awarded my Ph.D. with Distinction, for my dissertation entitled "Covenanted Solidarity: The Theological Basis of Karl Barth's Opposition to Nazi Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust." (The thesis was examined in Australia, Cambridge and Aberdeen). Although it is a Ph.D. on Barth undertaken from the "nether regions" of Barthian scholarship (i.e. Australia!), I would like to express gratitude to both Professors Demson and McCormack for their encouragement and advice throughout the project. I trust that this may be of interest to others who receive the newsletter, in one way or another.

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*NOTE: The Barth Society Newsletter is glad to
publish such reports of recent research.*

Materials for the Newsletter are always welcome. Please send comments, brief articles, news items, reviews or book notices, etc., to the Editor:

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